

Annual Report of Major Outputs & Outcomes
Nebraska Occupational Safety and Health Program (Fundamental)
July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Epidemiology

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Project Overview

The overall aims of the Nebraska Occupational Safety and Health Program (NOSHP) are to:

- Collect occupational safety and health data from existing systems
- Develop a surveillance system for chemical poisonings
- Expand the Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance (ABLES) program
- Identify and interact with stakeholders
- Conduct educational outreach and disseminate information
- Assemble an occupational health advisory committee and meet yearly
- Participate in the occupational health surveillance community

Accomplishments, Outputs, and Outcomes

Generating Occupational Health Indicators

- All 20 of the 2010 occupational health indicators (OHIIs) were calculated and submitted to CSTE in June. Nebraska now has OHI data from 2000 to 2010 for most indicators.
- A new work-related asthma indicator was pilot tested using 2010 data.

Potential outcome: NOSHP and our stakeholders' have the ability to use these data to study trends, identify research priorities, and help shape outreach and intervention strategies.

Building Databases and Surveillance Systems

- NOSHP completed data entry of pesticide poisoning cases from 2011 and 2012 in preparation of its first data submission to the SENSOR-Pesticides Program. The NIOSH software SPIDER was used for database management.
- A new data sharing process was established with the Nebraska Regional Poison Center. The program will receive monthly reports of all work-related poisoning aggregate data.
- NOSHP continued to develop and improve the adult lead test database, which has allowed for a new lead poisoning analysis to be initiated. Data cleaning and coding technical assistance was provided to the Nebraska Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology Surveillance (ABLES) program.
- Worked with the Nebraska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) program to include industry and occupation questions on the 2013 survey.

Potential outcome: New databases and data collection procedures increase our surveillance capacity in order to conduct internal analyses and share these data with the general public. This work also gives our state and federal partners the ability to use Nebraska-specific occupational health datasets for studying occupational injuries and illnesses.

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Developing Partnerships and Collaborations

- Established new partnership between NOSHP and pesticide safety stakeholders at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL).
- Met with academic staff from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and discussed possible collaboration projects to address occupational injuries in the meatpacking industry.
- Joined the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) injury surveillance workgroup, which meets monthly, and participated in DHHS injury prevention activities.
- Established new partnerships with additional stakeholders to discuss collaboration opportunities. Meetings were held with representatives from NIOSH-funded Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, the DHHS Office of Emergency Preparedness, and Nebraska Department of Labor.

Potential outcome: New partnerships show NOSHP is beginning to play an important role within the Nebraska occupational health community in addressing worker health issues. Establishing these partnerships means we have new opportunities to advance worker health issues within existing occupational health circles and introduce occupational health concepts in additional public health communities, such as injury prevention and emergency preparedness.

Intermediate outcome: The UNL Pesticide Safety Office has added public health as a priority issue for pesticide education and training activities, based on occupational health indicator data provided by NOSHP. UNL has a close connection to workers at risk for pesticide exposures, and this new focus helps advance pesticide poisoning prevention efforts across Nebraska.

Disseminating Occupational Health Data

- Received and responded to our first data request from a local health department.
- NOSHP published its first data report, which summarized 2009 OHIs. A summary of 2010 OHI data was also published, and these documents were published on the program's website.
- A surveillance report summarizing ten years trends of occupational health indicators was completed and is currently in review.
- The Occupational Health Surveillance Advisory Committee met for the second time in April. Data presentations included an analysis of workers' compensation data from 2007–2010, work-related fatalities from 2009–2011, and poisonings from 2007–2012.

Potential outcome: The release of these data reports has the potential to increase awareness and use of occupational health data with researchers, public health professionals, and the public.

Intermediate outcome: The advisory committee is the only known group with members from government agencies, universities, and non-profit organizations committed to the state of occupational health in Nebraska. The data presented on high-risk industries based on workers' compensation claims lead to a decision among members to prioritize projects and increase injury prevention efforts for meatpacking workers.

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Communication and Educational Activities

- Published a new program public website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/occhealth/>.
- The site was updated with news, health alerts, data reports, and other resources.
- Created and distributed two pesticide poisoning prevention fact sheets at the Nebraska Urban Pest Management Conference. Outreach included discussing pesticides exposures one-on-one with pest control workers, university extension staff, and researchers.
- Wrote an article on pesticide poisoning prevention featured in the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's Summer Pesticide and Noxious Weed Newsletter. The newsletter was mailed to the more than 10,000 licensed commercial pesticide applicators and electronically sent to 700 listserv members representing university, state, and federal government pesticide programs.

Potential Outcome: Communicating pesticide poisoning prevention to every licensed pesticide applicator in Nebraska has the potential to not only reduce pesticide exposure incidents but help create a more robust database of pesticide exposure incidents due to increased reporting.

Participating in the Occupational Health Community

- Joined the national occupational health community by attending the CSTE Annual Conference, the CSTE Occupational Health Surveillance Spring Meeting, the fall Surveillance Partners meeting, and selected SENSOR-Pesticide webinars.
- Participated in regional and local epidemiology networks by representing Nebraska at the WestON meeting. The program manager also attended the Public Health Association of Nebraska (PHAN) annual conference and introduced the concept of occupational health surveillance to local health department staff.
- Increased program knowledge by attending a SAS workshop, taking SAS training courses, and listening to selected presentations at the Work-Related Asthma/Silicosis Meeting via remote phone dial-in.

Publications, Reports, and Web Documents

- “Pesticide Poisoning: Only an Exposure Away.” Pesticide and Noxious Weed Newsletter: Summer 2013, Vol. 33, pg 7. Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Available at: <http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/publications/pesticide/summer2013.pdf>.
- “Nebraska Occupational Health Indicators Annual Report: 2009 Data.” Published Nov 2012. Available at http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/OccHealth/Documents/OHIs_Summary_Report_2009.pdf.
- “Profile of Occupational Health in Nebraska, 2010” (Factsheet). Published June 2013. Available at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/OccHealth/Documents/QuickFacts2010.pdf>.
- “By the Numbers: Pesticide Poisoning in Nebraska” (Factsheet).
- “Pesticide Poisoning: Know What to Do” (Factsheet).